

Steps to Becoming a Middle/High School Teacher in California

Note: Middle school teachers may obtain the Multiple Subject teaching credential and obtain a 32 unit degree authorization or pass the CSET Single Subject in the field they wish to teach and take a secondary methods course or they may follow the steps below.

Step 1: Complete Your Educational Preparation

- Earn a bachelor's degree -- in the field you wish to teach
- Satisfy your US Constitution requirement with Political Science 1 or the state exam

Step 2: Pass Your State Exams

- Basic skills requirement -- prior to applying to your credential program
- California Subject Exam for Teachers (Single Subject) - prior to student teaching IF you did NOT complete a subject matter preparation program at the university level

Step 3: Obtain a Character Clearance (prior to student teaching)

Step 4: Complete a Teaching Credential Program

- Teaching methods
- Reading instruction
- Testing/measurement
- Public health
- Special student populations (culture, language, special needs)
- Foundational computer technology
- Fieldwork
- Student teaching

Step 5: Apply for your preliminary Single Subject Teaching Credential

Step 6: Complete a two year induction or BTSA program at the district level

- Support and mentoring
- Skill based assessments
- Health education, special populations, computers, English learners

Step 7: Apply for your professional clear Single Subject Teaching Credential